



Park Advisory Board Meeting Minutes May 18th, 2022

Call to order

The recent Park Advisory Board Meeting was held on May 18th, 2022 at the Hut Meeting Facility. The meeting was called to order at 6:07pm by Tristan McMannis and seconded by Yvette Isaacs.

Attendees

Matthew Jakubowski (Staff)
Erin Hamilton (Staff)
Tristan McMannis (Chair)
Kris McVey (Vice Chair)

Randy Brantley
Lorraine Haynes
Yvette Isaacs

Barbara Manning
Stacy Shatterly via Zoom
Christine Turner

Public Comment: None

New Business

Approval of minutes:

- i. Randy Brantley made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 16th, 2022 meeting. Motion approved and seconded by Yvette, ayes by all.

Director's Update:

- i. One of Matthew's main priorities is having our own internal programs. We have had successful youth soccer, youth basketball, and adult basketball seasons in this last fiscal year.
- ii. Matt turned in the PARTF grant and hoping for the best. The grant is for the McCullough greenway which will connect to Jack Hughes Park.
- iii. Council has been giving money to Arts & Science council, but now have decided to defund ASC, so the money will go to Parks & Recreation. We are hoping this money will go to Arts in the Park festival or a bigger band for Rockin & Reelin.
- iv. Matt met with a Girl Scouts chapter in the area. She has a few highschoolers that need to do a group project. They want to do a permanent hop scotch in bright colors and maybe some lily pads on the sidewalk from the playground up to the Belle Johnston Community Center. The girls are going to provide some drafts with the art teacher at South Meck High School to give options of layouts.
- v. The Parks & Recreation budget still has over \$100K and Matt wants to spend it before then end of the fiscal year. One thing he has approved is to redo the toddler playground. It needs new flooring and features. It would be around \$60K, maybe more. Matt handed the board 2 different designs and would like the boards opinion on which they like best. Do we put more shading at the splash pad? Do we put new netting on the multipurpose field? Do we do new netting on the stadium backstop? Yvette asked about a new dog park maybe at Jack Hughes? Tristan asked about why not

get more benches for Lake Park and Yvette said more benches at Jack Hughes. Christine said the playground needs more benches for parents. Yvette asked about security cameras at Jack Hughes and surrounding areas. Matt says the Town is putting cameras everywhere in the new budget. We used to have poles and a guide wire to hang banners across main St. Matt wants to put these back up so we can market our events and programs.

a. Board takes a vote on the two options for the toddler playground designs: one vote for option 1. Seven votes for option 2.

- vi. We opened the splash pad earlier than normal. We have had positive feedback and plan to extend the hours in September. It has been busy for the most part of May so far.

PPRAB Vacancies and Appointments:

- i. The PPRAB currently has 8 board members. There is one spot available. Tristan encourages everyone to engage with their neighbors and let them know we have a vacant spot.

Review of Town Council Retreat:

- i. Feedback was all good news. Matt says council has been very positive and receptive and they like the new things were doing and our new programming. They didn't strike anything from the budget.
 - i. Discussion of Council Priorities for next two years and items we can help promote or support, i.e. Performing arts, Historical Appreciation, Citizen Engagement, Mobility, Bike Lanes, Greenways, Land Acquisition, and Recreational Programming.

PPRAB Member Reports

- i. **Community Engagements:**
 - a. Randy says he had heard a lot of people talking the greenway being built. He has heard positive things about the new amenities in the dog park. Matt says they are very ahead of schedule and the greenway may open by November.
 - b. Yvette heard a lot of good things about the Arts in the Park festival for it being the first season. Yvette said it's nice to have volunteers to help relieve vendors who are by themselves. Erin thanked Barbara, Lorraine, Yvette, Tristan, and Christine for volunteering to help and being there to support us. Yvette recommended having more artwork vendors and vendor contests with who has the best decorated booth? Hard to hear music on the stage.
 - c. Stacy gave kudos to Park and Rec for getting PCAA t-ball over to Jack Hughes after the incident in early May.
 - d. Kris also wanted to say how good the fields at Jack Hughes look. Kris asked if the Jack Hughes-McCullough greenway will happen if the PARTF grant isn't granted. Matt says it is a go and has been approved. Council has allotted money in the new budget for \$1.2 million to help build it. The PARTF grant would help subsidize if it's granted. Designs could be done in summer and go out for bids. Goal for construction to begin would be beginning of 2023.

- e. Lorraine has been having classes on the stage during the week and her class goes give positive feedback about how clean the park looks and well maintained. Lorraine thought we had a good variety of food trucks at the Arts in the Park festival. Lorraine also gave kudos for most of geese being gone.
 - f. Christine echoed the arts in the park compliments. Christine loved the children's art show. Christine gave some concerns about basketball and having the break at Christmas and New Year's. Erin explained how the season works.
- ii. Resident concerns/suggestions: None

Park and Recreation Department: Upcoming Events/Programs

- i. Group Activity – Jack Hughes Nature Trail: Matt and Tristan met and walked the makeshift trail at Jack Hughes. The trail is 2 miles to the end and back. Tristan would like to have a group project making the trail more walkable. Maybe we could partner with Public Works with some equipment to help clear the path. Matt thinks it would take one morning with the right amount of people to help make the existing trail clearer. Matt would buy essential and safety signs for the trail once cleared. The Board is scheduling to come out tentatively June 11th from 7am-11am. Erin will create a signup genius for the date.
- ii. Rock-n-Reel'n will start on Fridays June 10th and going through September 23rd. June 30th is the symphony and we will have fireworks.
- iii. October 14th-15th is Fall Fest: Matt gave out a layout of Fall Fest to show the board. We will be running shuttles and have parking maps. We will need volunteers: parking, crowd control, ticket booths, vendor help etc. We will have fireworks Saturday night.

Old Business

- i. Review PARTF grant status: covered above.
- ii. Charlotte Catholic and Jack Hughes: No update.
- iii. Status of Miller Property Park Space: we handed out a layout to show the green space that will be handed over to the Town of Pineville. It will be approved in the June council meeting. We may be able to put multipurpose fields in the flood plain areas. In the front of neighborhood could be a linear park.

Open Discussion/Suggestions/Future Initiatives

- Old North State League – Mecklenburg Muscadines at Jack Hughes. First game is June 7th. Middle James Brewing will be there. Fun antics on the fields for kids.

Schedule of Upcoming PPRAB Meetings: August 17th (changed to 8/24), November 16th

Adjourn – Kris McVey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Tristan seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.